

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.**

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF CT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Dear members of the Connecticut Human Services Committee:

My name is Sayra Mejia, I am a member of the Hartford Deportation Defense. I live in New Britain with my 15 year old daughter and we both came from Honduras almost 3 years ago. I am in favor of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.

My concern is that my daughter suffers from very severe allergies to anything with citric acids or peanuts. If she consumes any of those products, her skin starts to itch and her tongue and throat become inflamed. When she gets it, she can't even swallow water or anything. The school nurse referred us to a laboratory to do an allergy test to determine what medicine can control her reaction. I applied for financial assistance and was told I would not pay for the cost of the visit but I have gotten a bill for \$1331 for a single test and they still want me to make another appointment for another test to determine if they can give her an epipen.

I see how difficult it is to be able to have a child here and not have health insurance. For me it is worrisome because if I don't have the means to go to the doctor, my daughter has to be suffering from her allergies and also her chronic migraines. She has to be self-medicating to calm down, and maybe they affect her because they are not prescribed by a medical specialist.

Connecticut's immigrant community needs the support of HUSKY health insurance. We ask you to support S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. This way we will be able to take our children to the doctor without going into debt and also take care of our own health.

Thank you for your time,  
Sayra Mejia.